

**DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY, AND PETITION**

We, Claudiu D. Pruteanu, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 203 - 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Kasson, Minnesota 55944, Randall L. Bice, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 2343 Ponderosa Drive SW, Rochester, Minnesota 55902, and James M. Johnston, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 7040 Halifax Lane NW, Rochester, Minnesota 55901, hereby declare that we verily believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "REFUSE PACKER WITH RETRACTABLE LOADING HOPPER", the specification of which is attached hereto.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the said specification including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the Oath or Declaration.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States Provisional Application(s) listed below:

Application Serial No.

60/395905

Filing Date

July 15, 2002

We hereby appoint NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A., a professional association, consisting of the following attorneys/agents and the following attorneys/agents individually: Thomas J. Nikolai, Registration No. 19283, Charles G. Mersereau, Registration No. 26205, and Steven E. Kahm, Registration No. 30860, of 820

International Centre, 900 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3813; Telephone No. (612) 339-7461, our attorneys/agents with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please direct all telephone calls and correspondence to: C. G. Mersereau, Esq. at NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A., 820 International Centre, 900 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3813.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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